

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figs. 1 and 2 as shown highlighted in the Marked-Up Version attached. A clean copy of the Replacement Drawing is also enclosed.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-20, 22-27, 31-35, 37-41 and 44-48 are presently pending for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 1, 6-7, 9-12, 17-19, 22, 24-25, 31-32, and 35 have been amended. Since the changes to the claims are fully supported by the original specification, claims, and drawings, no new matter has been entered by this amendment.

Among the amendments, claims 6, 7, 17, 19, 22, 24, 25, 31, 32, and 34 have been amended to depend from allowed claims 45 or 46, with changes to the text to provide antecedent basis. Since the recitations of claims 16 and 21 are now present in claim 1, these claims have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 30 and 36 have also been canceled without prejudice.

In the office action, claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph due to an objection to the language in claim 19 concerning the relation between the size of the opening and the protrusion. Claim 19, has now been amended to remove the language that was alleged to be indefinite. This rejection is believed to be overcome.

The drawings were objected to because reference numeral 76 was used to designate two items in Fig. 2. Fig. 2 has thus been amended to delete the out-of-place numeral 76. Additionally, it has been noticed that surface 75 incorrectly appeared in Figs. 1 and 2 identified with numeral 72. This has been corrected in the amended figures. The drawings are now believed to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4).

Claims 1, 6, 13, and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chauvin; claims 34-36 were rejected under section 102(b) as anticipated by Ray; and claims 1-4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 24, 28-33, and 44 were rejected under section 102(e) as anticipated by Jackson.


Applicants sincerely appreciate, however, the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 21 and the allowance of the claims 45-48. Claim 1 has now been amended to include all the recitations of claim 21, and all of the other rejected claims as amended now either depend from claim 1 or claim 45. Consequently, all the claims are either allowed or in condition for allowance.

The present amendment is made to expedite the prosecution of the application. It is believed that the entire application is presently in condition for allowance. Should any issues

remain, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss the same in order to expedite the allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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Fig. 1

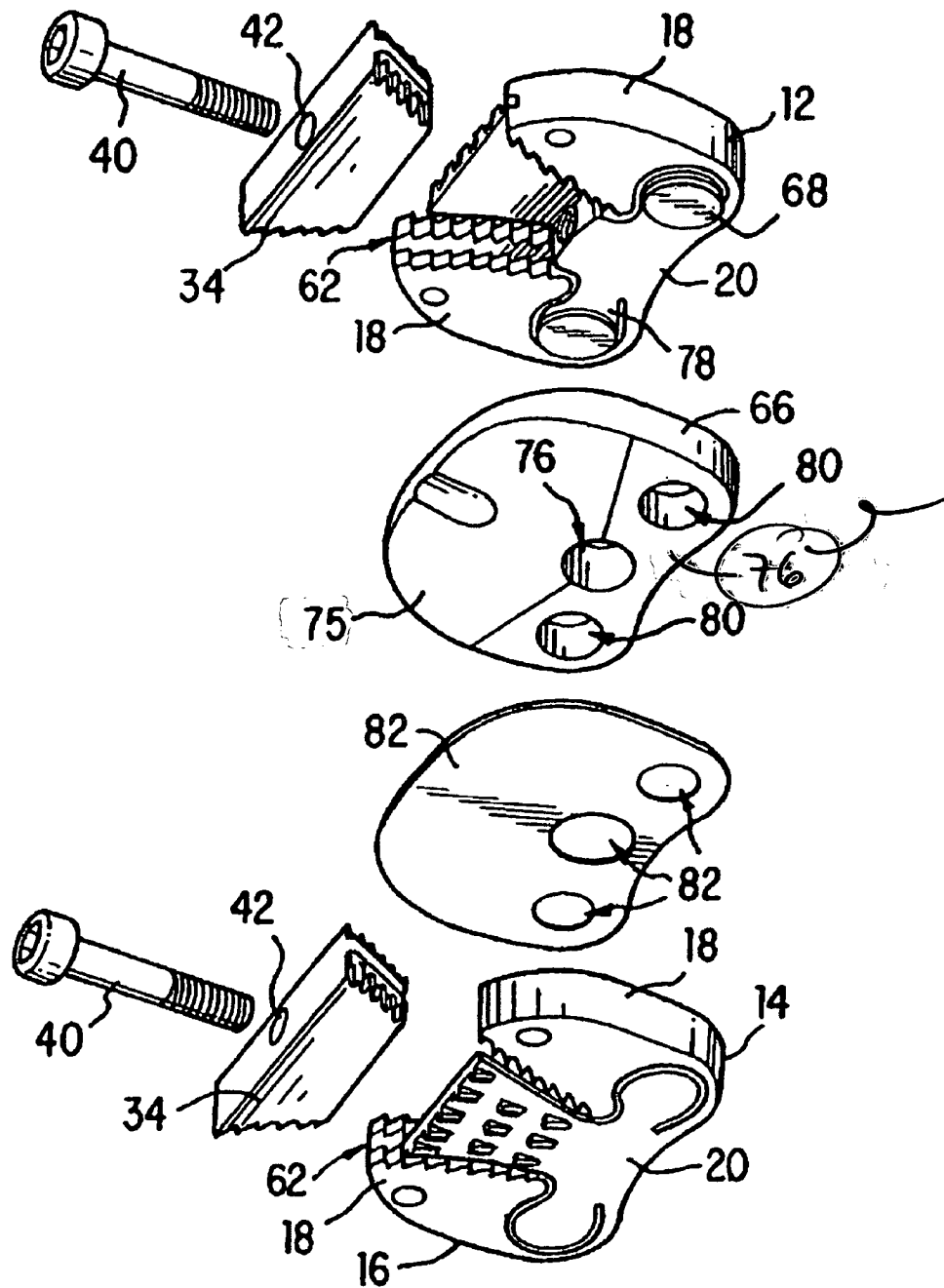


Fig. 2